

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3 and 6-8 are currently pending.

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 3, 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by Dubrow (US 2005/0181195 A1), and claims 2 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over Dubrow. These rejections rely upon the assertions that (1) Dubrow's disclosure as exemplified by figure 7 "clearly illustrates the nanofibers being entirely coated with the liquidphobic material" (Office Action, par. 5); and (2) Dubrow's "example 1 demonstrates that the coating would impregnate the spaces between the nanofibers because the water has done this prior to the nanofibers coating," (with the assumption that the coating would act similarly to the water). In view of the following comments, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.

Regarding the first assertion (1), the claims require the surface between the nanofibers to be covered with a layer of polymer. Figure 7 of Dubrow clearly demonstrates that this surface is not coated as required by the pending claims. The same is true for the text in Dubrow. For example, par. [0071] teaches that only the nanofibers are covered in a liquidphobic film, not the surfaces between the nanofibers. Nowhere does Dubrow teach or suggest coating the surface between the nanofibers.

Regarding the second assertion (2), Dubrow's example 1 demonstrates that immersion in par. [0136] results in liquidphobically-coated nanofibers. However, there is no indication that the surface between the nanofibers is also liquidphobically-coated. That the untreated surface "rapidly wicked" water (in par. [0135]) does not alter this conclusion – movement of water on an untreated wafer is irrelevant in the context of the present invention. As explained in the present specification (page 2), capillary phenomena preclude surface coating when immersion techniques are used. Nowhere does Dubrow teach or suggest ways in which the capillary phenomena can be addressed/overcome when immersion techniques are used. In

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other words Dubrow, which merely discloses immersion techniques, would not enable one of ordinary skill in the art to produce a composition in which the surface between the nanofibers is coated. Such a non-enabling reference cannot teach or suggest the present invention. *See, Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. v. Ben Venue Labs.*, 246 F.3d 1368, 1374 (Fed. Cir. 2001).

In stark contrast, Applicants obtain their claimed product having coated surfaces between the nanofibers by means other than immersion treatment. (See, page 3, lines 30-31 of the present specification).

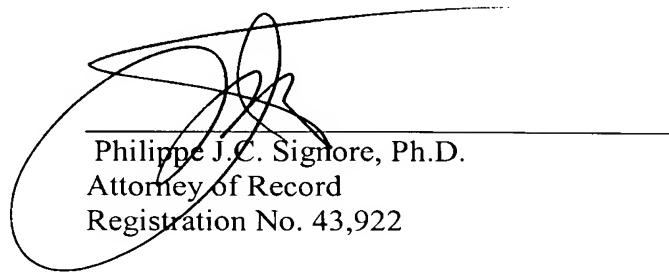
Stated another way, Dubrow does not teach or suggest a composition in which the surface between the nanofibers is covered with a continuous hydrophobic and/or lipophobic film, or methods for obtaining such a composition.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103.

Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Philippe J.C. Signore, Ph.D.
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 43,922

Jeffrey B. McIntyre
Registration No. 36,867

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)